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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application N .</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/046,969	HIRAMATSU, HIROMI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Karabi Guharay	2879	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment, filed on 30 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date <u>01/02</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                    |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material                            | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

Art Unit: 2879

Amendment, filed on 30 March 2004, has been considered and entered.

Claims 1 & 5 have been amended. Claims 7-12 are added.

Formal drawings, submitted on 30 March 2004, have been accepted.

***Examiner's Amendment***

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Specification page 15, line 11, change the misspelled word "though" to ---  
thought---.

In Abstract,

(1) On line 1, delete "An improved structure of a" and before the word "spark",  
insert ----A ----.

(2) On line 8 through 9, delete "and extends toward the center electrode to define  
a spark gap".

(3) On line 17, besides the word "electrode", delete all the words on line 17  
through line 23.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-12 are allowed over the prior art of record.

***Examiner's Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

The prior art of record neither shows nor suggests a spark plug comprising all the limitations set forth in claim 1 particularly comprising the limitation "wherein if a portion of the noble metal-made tip of the ground electrode closest to the tip of said center electrode is defined as a ground electrode tip, and a portion of the fused portion closest to the tip of said center electrode is defined as a fused portion tip, said ground electrode tip and said fused portion tip are located within a range defined by a first line extending from a top end surface of the tip of said center electrode in a lateral direction of said center electrode and a second line extending from a portion of said center electrode closest to said ground electrode in a longitudinal direction parallel to a longitudinal center line of said center electrode so that said ground electrode tip and said fused portion tip do not overlap with the tip of said center electrode both in the lateral direction and in the longitudinal direction of said center electrode.

Claims 2-12 are allowed being dependent on allowed base claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### ***Other Prior Art Cited***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure : Kanao (US 6724132); Shibata et al. (US 2002/0067111); JP (2001-307857A); EP 1383214A2.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karabi Guharay whose telephone number is (571) 272-2452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimeshkumar D. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit 2879

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